

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 13927 301735Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /055 W

----- 123944

R 301723Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9941

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 13927

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS, CB

SUBJECT: INTELLIGENCE ON VIET NAM AND CAMBODIA

REF: (A) STATE 228329 (B) MANILA 6190 (C) CINCPAC 272244Z

1. WE AGREE THAT INTELLIGENCE CONCERNING VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO AT LEAST THE ABOVE ADDRESSEES. ALTHOUGH THE REPORTS MENTIONED IN REF A AND REF C WILL BE OF HELP, WE BELIEVE THAT A WEEKLY TELEGRAM WHICH IS BASED PRIMARILY ON AN ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC STATEMENTS (FBIS) WITH THE ADDITION OF INFORMATION DERIVED FROM ALL SOURCES, INCLUDING FROM EXISTING LIAISON WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS, WOULD BE HELPFUL IN GIVING A COORDINATED OVERVIEW. SUCH A MESSAGE CAN BE WRITTEN ONLY IN WASHINGTON; OCI IS THE ASPECT OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WHICH HAS THE MOST AND THE BEST ASSETS TO PREPARE SUCH A REPORT. IT WOULD PROBABLY IN EFFECT BE MERELY A REWORKING OF MATERIAL ALREADY PRODUCED BY OCI INTO A FORMAT TO SUIT THE NEEDS OF SUCH ADDRESSEES. WE WOULD EXPECT IT TO SUBSTITUTE, IN A
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PAGE 02 PARIS 13927 301735Z

SHORTENED FORM, FOR THE FORMER SAIGON SVN WEEKA AND

DRV BI-WEEKA AND THE PHNOM PENH WEEKA.

2. WHILE HELPFUL AS BACKGROUND, POUCHED EA/VN AND EA/LC STATUS REPORTS AND INR REPORTS WILL NOT PROVIDE THE INFORMATION NEEDED SUFFICIENTLY RAPIDLY TO FULFILL THE NEEDS CITED IN REF B OR OUR OWN HERE.

3. WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR TOUR D'HORIZON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE QUAI, BUT WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE TO ADDRESSEES THAT THESE CONVERSATIONS ARE DESIGNED--BY THE GOF AS WELL AS OURSELVES--AS AN EXCHANGE, PRIMARILY OF VIEWS OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND AN EXPLANATION OF POLICIES. WHILE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION IS PROVIDED BY THE FRENCH IN THE COURSE OF THESE CONVERSATIONS, IT IS NOT NOW THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THE TALKS WITH THE FRENCH EQUIVALENT OF AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY. CERTAINLY THESE CONVERSATIONS DO NOT CONSTITUTE A FULL COVERAGE OF THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO ALL ASPECTS OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION, WE ARE EXPECTED BY THE QUAI TO DRAW ON U.S. INFORMATION AND ANALYSES TO HOLD UP OUR END OF A DIALOGUE; THIS WILL BE POSSIBLE ONLY IF WE RECEIVE A TELEGRAPHIC REPORT SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED ABOVE. FINALLY, WE SHOULD NOTE THAT THE FRENCH WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO HAVE THEIR OWN VERY PECULIAR WAY OF VIEWING EVENTS IN INDOCHINA AND ALSO OF PRESENTING IT TO THE U.S.--IN OTHER WORDS, WE ARE NOT LIKELY TO GET ENTIRELY OBJECTIVE REPORTS, PARTICULARLY IF WE CANNOT CHALLENGE THE MOST TENDENTIOUS OF FRENCH PRESENTATIONS WITH FACTS DERIVED INDEPENDENTLY.

4. WHEN THE FRENCH ARE SERVING AS THE PROTECTING POWER FOR U.S. INTERESTS IN SVN, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ASK THEM TO PROVIDE WRITTEN REPORTS. THIS WOULD RESULT IN A GREAT INCREASE IN INFORMATION OVER WHAT WE CAN CURRENTLY EXPECT FROM PERIODIC CONVERSATIONS AT THE QUAI. WE WOULD NO DOUBT BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE AT LEAST SOME FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE FRENCH ESTABLISHMENT IN SAIGON, WHICH WOULD THEN IN PART BE WORKING FOR THE U.S. USG SHOULD NOW CONSIDER WHETHER AND WHEN WE MIGHT MAKE SUCH A REQUEST.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PARIS 13927 301735Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS13927
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750190-0366
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975055/aaaaaeef.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 228329, 75 MANILA 6190, 75 CINCPAC 272244Z
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTELLIGENCE ON VIET NAM AND CAMBODIA
TAGS: PINT, VS, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006